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PART II.

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE.

Food Situation for the week ending 7th February 1920.

Brief abstract of the special reports regarding the Food Situation for the week ending 7th February 1920.

Bangalore City.—During the week under report, 95 carts of ragi and 54 carts of paddy came into the bazaar as against 187 carts of ragi and 57 carts of paddy in the previous week.

The price of ragi ranged from Rs. 80 to Rs. 106 per cart during the week against Rs. 84 to 104 per cart in the previous week.

There is sufficient stock of rice and ragi in the bazaar but the prices are high.

The Municipal Depot is selling to the poor Delta rice, and broken rice at 4½ seers and 6½ seers a rupee.

Mysore City.—There are no signs of decrease in the prices of food grains. The price of paddy has not gone down below Rs. 19 per candy.

Bangalore District.—There has been no rain during the week. The standing crops of sugar-cane, avare, togari, Bengal gram and paddy, are reported to be in a good condition. Transplanting of Vaisakhi paddy is going on in some of the taluks.

The markets are still poorly supplied with food grains and prices show no tendency of going down. Ragi was selling at 6 to 8 seers a rupee and rice 3 to 4½ seers. Complaints have been received of profiteering on the part of merchants licensed to sell imported rice under control.

Though the situation is still difficult there is nothing to cause anxiety. The local officers have been instructed to keep a close watch over the matter.

Mysore District.—There is no change in the situation.

Tumkur District.—There is no material change in the situation. The price of ragi is Rs. 96 per cart load of 640 seers, while that of paddy is from Rs. 65 to Rs. 80. Sale of Burma rice is being continued in the Depots at Tumkur, Gubbi, Tiptur, Turuvekere and Maddagiri.

Kolar District.—There is nothing particular to report in this week. The demand for Burma rice has been increasing day by day throughout the district. The fresh allotment of 1,000 tons asked for from the Food Controller and Director of Civil Supplies is badly wanted. The prices of food grains continue to be high.

Hassan District.—The *santes* were well supplied with food grains. Ragi is not so freely coming into the markets as rice. Paddy and rice are being exported from important santes in the district to Bangalore.

Standing crops such as Bengal gram, kar paddy and sugar-cane are in a good condition. Paddy, ragi and horse gram are being harvested.

Prices still continue to be high.

The prospects of the season are generally good for the present.

Shimoga District.—The situation remains unchanged except for a slight tendency for prices to go up. The Amildars of Honnali, Shikarpur and the Deputy Amildar of Kumsi report that unusually large quantities of rice are being bought up by merchants and removed to the frontier Taluks Harihar and Davangere of the Chitaldrug District. The ten mile belt on the frontier will have to be reimposed if this year's crop is to remain within the State. The drainage of food stuffs outside the district towards the frontier looks rather suspicious especially when it is already beginning to have effect in raising prices. Rice of the first sort is reported to sell at 4 seers and the second sort at 5 seers at Ayanur during the last week.

Kadur District.—There was no rainfall during the week. Paddy is still being harvested in Narasimharajapura and its yield is 12 annas. New rice, ragi and jola are coming into markets abundantly but there has been no perceptible fall in their prices. Threshing operations have commenced in Chikmagalur.

In Tarikere, Burma rice is being sold at 5 seers a rupee. In Koppa and Narasimharajapura there was no demand for Burma rice.

The situation continues to be favourable.

Chitaldrug District.—The prices of ragi, jola and horse gram have gone down to a small extent, their market rate during the week being Rs. 11, 10 and 12 per palla respectively as against Rs. 12, 11, 14 in the week previous.

General (By Food Controller).—From the reports received from the several Deputy Commissioners up to now it is seen that there is no rain in any part of the State. In the Bangalore District the markets are reported to be poorly supplied, while in other parts they were fairly well supplied. The Deputy Commissioner, Kadur District, states that in Koppa and Narasimharajapura there was no demand for Burma rice and when an attempt was made to auction the stock of Burma rice in the Koppa Depot no body bid for it owing to local rice being available and paddy being sold at 16 to 18 seers a rupee. The prices of food grains continue to rule high. The flow of ragi and paddy into the market in Bangalore City has decreased considerably the probable reason being that the raiyats are trying to lay by their stocks with the expectation of realising better prices. It is understood that raiyats are thinking of holding out stocks till Gouri feast. The price of ragi in the Bangalore City has gone up abnormally high it having been Rs. 106 per cart-load of 640 seers.

Out of the Burma rice (January allotment) 700 tons are already on their way to Madras and the remaining 1,300 tons are expected to leave Rangoon in the course of this week. Arrangements have been made for the supply of 500 tons of whole rice to Kolar Gold Fields, 200 tons to the Civil and Military Station and 400 tons to the Kolar District. The requirements of other districts are being considered and an equitable distribution will be made on receipt of information called for from the several Deputy Commissioners.

Arrangements have also been made for the import of Indian rice allotted from Bihar and Orissa for the month of February by the Deputy Foodstuffs Commissioner for the Government of India.

Almost the whole of the Delta rice of the January allotment has come in and sales in retail have been arranged by the importers in five different centres. The Delta rice is being sold at 5 seers a rupee and each importer has been authorised to issue rice up to 25 seers in any individual case. Four test depots have also been opened for sales of Delta and Burma rice through the Municipality.

Bengal rice has been arranged to be sold by the importers in three different places.

C. S. BALASUNDARAM IYER,
Chief Secretary to Government.